



Work continues on Capitol Hill as lawmakers advanced legislation through committees and on the House and Senate floors. There are a total of 912 bills on notice this week in committees. Last week, there were 954 bills on notice. Some committees have shut down and most are on their last calendar. Most legislation considered this session are in their final version. In the coming weeks, the General Assembly shifts its focus to the legislative adjustments to the Governor's budget and appropriations amendment. The General Assembly is still on a timeline to adjourn in mid-April.

The General Assembly confirmed the appointment of **Mary L. Wagner** to the Tennessee Supreme Court in a joint session in the House chamber on Monday. Wagner is currently the circuit court judge for the 30th Judicial District, which covers Shelby County. She previously served as an associate at a Memphis-based law firm and taught as an adjunct professor at The University of Memphis School of Law. The Tennessee Supreme Court vacancy will be created by the retirement of Justice Roger A. Page, effective Aug. 31. Wagner's tenure on the court will begin Sept. 1.

Governor Lee's main legislative priority was not heard in either chamber this week. **House Bill 1183**, would establish the Education Freedom Scholarships Act (EFSA). This legislation would provide scholarships for students to attend private schools. A total of 20,000 scholarships would be available to families for the 2024-25 school year. Priority would be given to students who are currently eligible for an Education Savings Account followed by those from households at or below 400 percent and 500 percent of the federal poverty level respectively. The House and Senate versions of the bill are in very different forms. The House and Senate must come to an agreement on final language for the bill to become law. The legislation will continue to be on the forefront of this legislative session.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development recently reported the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state was 3.5% in January. The unemployment rate decreased in one county, increased in 93 counties and remained the same in one county. Williamson County reported the lowest unemployment rate at 2.5%. Meigs County had the highest rate at 5.7%. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the U.S. remained the same at 3.7%. Tennessee's Labor Force Estimate Report for January can be found [here](#).